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NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Angelo Williams, also known as "Ant Man", age 38, of Norfolk, Virginia, was sentenced today to 216 months imprisonment for attempting to possess 250 grams of powder cocaine with intent to distribute, and for possessing a firearm and ammunition after having previously been convicted of three drug trafficking felonies. Williams was classified as an "armed career criminal" and had a mandatory minimum of 15 years in prison for the possession of the firearm and ammunition. He also faces an additional two years imprisonment for violation of his federal supervised release which he was serving after release from imprisonment on a previous conviction.

The federal charges arose from Williams' arrest by Norfolk Police Department narcotics officers on state charges following the arrangement of a controlled sale of cocaine from an informant to Williams. The case was referred to the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives for federal prosecution under Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)/EXILE.

Project PSN/EXILE is a federal program that uses a joint federal and state multi-agency approach to targeting armed criminals for prosecution in federal court for possession or use of firearms in violation of federal laws. It is a part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, a nationwide effort by the Department of Justice aimed at reducing violent crimes. Most firearms cases involve or are related to drug trafficking. Since its inception in Hampton Roads in late 1997, Project PSN/EXILE has produced over 1050 convictions and removed over 1820 firearms from armed criminals.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James A. Metcalfe.

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